

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please replace pending claims 1, 3, 7, and 12 with new claims 1, 3, 7, and 12, and add new claims 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising:

a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances; and

a housing that functions as a layout tool, said layout tool selected from a group consisting of a straight edge, a gauging block, a ruler, or a combination thereof.; and

a squaring lip, wherein said squaring lip is disposed on said housing.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said wheel comprises a circumference, said circumference selected from a group consisting of a 12-inch circumference, a 16-inch circumference, a nineteen and two-tenths-inch circumference, and a 24-inch circumference.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing further functions as a gauging block, and wherein said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall, said sidewall comprising measuring notches for measuring linear distances.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall comprising a length, said length selected from a group consisting of 1 1/2 inches, 3 inches, 3 1/2 inches, and 5 1/2 inches.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a first sidewall adjacently disposed to a second sidewall at an angle selected from a group consisting of 45 degrees and 90 degrees.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising:

a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances; and

a housing comprising edges dimensioned and configured to

correspond to the sizes and angles most often encountered during framing; and a squaring lip, wherein said squaring lip is disposed on said housing.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said wheel comprises a circumference, said circumference selected from a group consisting of a 12-inch circumference, a 16-inch circumference, an nineteen and two-tenths-inch circumference, and a 24-inch circumference.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall, said sidewall comprising measuring notches for measuring linear distances.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall comprising a length, said length selected from a group consisting of 1 1/2 inches, 3 inches, 3 1/2 inches, and 5 1/2 inches.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a first sidewall adjacently disposed to a second sidewall at an angle selected from a group consisting of 45 degrees and 90 degrees.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring distances, said method comprising the step of:

obtaining an apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances, and a housing that functions as a straight edge, and a squaring lip.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of placing said wheel on a starting point on a surface requiring measurement, and rolling said wheel over the surface.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of determining the distance traveled by said wheel from the starting point, wherein the distance is ascertained by said incremental line markers on said wheel.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of marking the surface at selected intervals indicated by said incremental line markers on said wheel.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of utilizing said housing to measure the sizes and angles most often encountered during framing.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said squaring lip comprises a nail hole.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said squaring lip comprises a string groove.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises an enlarged cutout, wherein said enlarged cutout permits a large portion of said wheel to be exposed for contacting a workpiece, and wherein said enlarged cutout provides an additional viewing area for viewing said incremental line markers of said wheel.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said squaring lip comprises a nail hole.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said squaring lip comprises a string groove.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises an enlarged cutout, wherein said enlarged cutout permits a large portion of said wheel to be exposed for contacting a workpiece, and wherein said enlarged cutout provides an additional viewing area for viewing said incremental line markers of said wheel.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing further functions as a gauging block, and wherein said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface.